A1 Cont'd

diagnostic test method of this invention, thus, comprises binding proteins which interact with one or more of the characteristic domains of"

Please amend page 10, lines 9 to 19 to read as follows:

"The HLE receptors on the plasma membrane of lymphocytes and mononuclear phagocytes are fairly well characterized. Thus, the epitopes characteristic of receptor structure, and their availability for accessible binding to an immunoreagent (e.g. antibody mimic), is simply a matter of choice. In one of the preferred embodiments of this

A2 invention, the immunoreagent suitable for use in the method of this invention is capable of immunochemical interaction with at least one of the catalytic triad of the HLE membrane surface proteins and the lipid interactive amino acids of the HLE membrane surface proteins. This catalytic triad of HLE (domain 1) is composed of amino acids His (41), Asp (88), and Ser (173). Lipid-interactive amino acids of the HLE (domain 2) is composed of amino acids Phe (170), Ala (187), and Arg (191); and, these amino acids are proximal to the catalytic triad. Similarly, the CD4 and chemokine receptors on the plasma membrane of lymphocytes and mononuclear phagocytes are also well-characterized. "

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-8 without prejudice and add the following new claims:

9. A method for monitoring of disease progression and pathologic phenomena that correlate with surface density of Human Leukocyte Elastase (HLE) associated with plasma membranes of lymphocytes and mononuclear phagocytes, said method

A3 comprising:

A. preparing a test sample which comprises lymphocytes and mononuclear phagocytes wherein said lymphocytes and mononuclear phagocytes are capable of differentiation from other endogenous matter contained within said test sample;